

Page 1, before line 5, insert the following:

--Background of the Invention

C1 1. Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, between lines 7 and 8, insert --Description of the Prior Art--.

Please substitute the following paragraphs in the specification for corresponding paragraphs previously presented. A copy of the amended specification paragraphs showing current revisions is attached.

Page 2, beginning at line 7:

C2 The operation of reading a particular optical code can give negative results for various factors, among which the imperfection of the code due, for example, to damages to the label on which it is obtained, the distance between the reader and the code, or the maintenance of said distance during the scanning time. In addition, also when the code is correctly acquired, its decoding may be impossible because, for example, it does not fall within the categories of codes known by the reader. In any case, the operator needs to know whether the code has been decoded before proceeding to read another code.

Page 3, between lines 30 and 31, insert ~~4~~ Summary of the Invention--.